and reduces the fertility rates. The Mission further seeks to build greater ownership of the programme among the community through involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions, NGOs and other stake holders at National, State, District and Sub-District levels to achieve the goals of National Population Policy 2000 and National Health Policy.

The approved outlay for the NRHM for the year 2007-08 is Rs.11010 crore and projected requirement of funds during 2008-09 is Rs. 17290 crore. Funding requirement for population stabilisation activities of the respective states will also be met out of the above outlay.

Free treatment to AIDS patients

671. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India tops the list of nations which are infected with AIDS/ HIV virus;

(b) if so, the reasons for the failure in checking the virus;

(c) whether Government would offer free testing, counselling and treatment in all hospitals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) As per the revised estimates India has the third largest number of infected persons after South Africa and Nigeria. The prevalence rates in the country over the last four year has stabilized at around 0.38% indicating success of the programme in checking the virus.

(c) and (d) Free testing and counseling facilities through 4132 Integrated Counseling and Testing Centres and anti-retroviral treatment at 127 government hospitals are provided under the Programme.

AIDS cases in the country

672. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has an estimated 2.5 million people living with HIV/AIDS, and the prevalence of HIV in the general population is now 0.36 per cent against 0.9 per cent as earlier;

(b) whether this makes India the third worst affected country with the deadly disease after South Africa and Nigeria; and

(c) if so, what are the steps Government proposed to take to improve its position further?